



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5381

JUNE 2024

June

- 6/09/2024 – Renryo/Lady Kujo Memorial/June Shotsuki Service/Dharma School – 10 a.m.
Rev. Brian Nagata, Guest Speaker- Gary Mukai

Obon Practice – 6/18/2024; 6/26/2024; 6/28/2024; 7/9/2024 – all begin at 7 p.m.

Future Schedule:

- 7/20/2024 – Obon/Hatsubon – 5:30 p.m.
- 7/21/2024 – Obon/Hatsubon/July Shotsuki Service – 10 a.m.
Rev. Blake Honda
- 8/11/2024 – August Shotsuki Service – 10 a.m.
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- 9/08/2024 – Fall Ohigan/September Shotsuki Service/Dharma School –
10 a.m., Rev. Mieko Majima
- 10/06/2024 – Eshinni/Kakushinni Memorial/October Shotsuki
Service/Dharma School – 1 p.m., Rev. Mieko Majima
- 11/03/2024 – Eitaikyo/November Shotsuki Service/Dharma School
10 a.m. Rev. Kodo Umezu
- 12/08/2024 – Bodhi Day/December Shotsuki Service/Dharma School
1 p.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima
- 12/31/2024 – New Year's Eve Service – 7 p.m.
Rev. Mieko Majima
- 1/01/2025 – New Year's Day Service – 9 a.m.
Rev. Mieko Majima

DIED FOR A BETTER LIFE

Once upon a time, a caravan traveled across a desert. There were five hundred merchants in the caravan. The desert was like a vast ocean of sand. It was extremely hot during the day and freezing cold at night. The sand stretched as far as the eye could see, and there were no rivers or lakes. The only sources of water were the oases, small green islands amidst the dry sand. To secure water, the caravan traveled from one oasis to the next. The caravan traveled with camels, which, unlike people, do not need frequent water.

One day, the caravan took longer than usual to reach the next oasis, and they ran out of water. When the caravan reached a mountainside, the young leader said, "The next oasis is over the mountain, but we need to feed the camels now. Please be patient. There's grass here, so let's dig and see if we can find water."

Some people started to feed the camels while others began to dig.

They dug and dug, but no water appeared, leaving everyone disappointed. Then someone shouted, "Gold!" He had found gold instead. The group was overjoyed and forgot about their thirst as they resumed digging. An enormous amount of gold seemed to be buried underground.

The leader, having ensured the camels were well-fed, said, "Everyone, let's move to the oasis before it gets too late." He worried about the time needed to reach the next oasis and the impact of water scarcity on their health. The situation was critical and could become fatal without water. However, no one listened, continuing to dig for gold, sweat dripping down their faces. The leader shouted, "Come on, everybody! Let's go!" but his warnings fell on deaf ears.

You can imagine what happened to the people in that caravan. Buddha taught that clinging to our possessions, no matter how little, isn't true contentment. In this story, the people, driven by their desires, drowned in their own ocean of greed and ended their lives tragically. They died in pursuit of a better life, believing that wealth would bring them fulfillment.

Buddha said, "True contentment is wealth."

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Mieko Majima

-Story from Jataka Vol. 25

Dancing Moggallāna

As we enter June, it's the Obon season. There are several Obon-related stories that I love, and I'd like to share one of them with you.

Once upon a time, when Shakyamuni Buddha was in India, there was a disciple named Moggallāna. He gained transcendental power through serious Buddhist practice and became well-known for it. Moggallāna's mother was also respected for her intelligence, but after she passed away, she was reborn as a hungry spirit because of her karma, specifically the sin of greed (attachment to things that bring us pleasure). This might be surprising since she loved her son from the bottom of her heart and acted as a good mother.

In the realm of hungry spirits, all beings have large bellies and thin bodies. They are constantly starving with insatiable appetites, but when they try to eat, the food turns into flames, leaving them desperate.

Moggallāna was deeply sorrowful over the loss of his mother, and upon learning about her rebirth, he felt even more despair. Despite being able to see her suffering with his transcendental power, he couldn't find a way to help her. Moggallāna went to Shakyamuni Buddha for guidance. The Buddha declined simply, saying, "I am sorry, my friend, but no one can substitute for her since she brought this upon herself."

Moggallāna continued returning to the Buddha, insisting, "She is my only mother, and I would rather lose my life than not help her." Seeing his disciple's sincerity, an idea came to the Buddha. He tasked Moggallāna with overseeing a flawless food donation to the Sangha during the rainy season retreat, ensuring faultless conduct among the sacred monks.

The Buddha gave Moggallāna this challenging responsibility, requiring him to oversee everything 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the month. He perfectly fulfilled the precepts.

During his assignment, Moggallāna began to realize that his supposed pure love for his mother was still rooted in his ego-centered mind. His mother was also strongly attached to him while she lived, because she loved him so much. It was also true that she didn't show as much care for other children as she did for Moggallāna.

One day, Moggallāna realized that he had never experienced true love. He gradually understood the essence of suffering caused by desire and pleasure. After a month of

selfless giving, he fully grasped the truth of his self-attachment and felt released from it. He then transferred his virtue to his mother and saved her from the realm of hungry spirits.

Moggallāna felt ultimate happiness. Suddenly, his body began to move on its own. He started dancing wildly with excitement. It is said that Moggallāna's joyful dancing is the origin of the Bon Dance.

The Buddha guided Moggallāna to a higher level of awareness. Moggallāna learned the true meaning of the act without seeking anything in return through the Buddha's guidance. The Buddha said, "If you genuinely try to save someone, first and foremost, you must be saved."

In Buddhist teachings, salvation means awakening the deluded to the truth and guiding them to enlightenment. Serving food, which the Buddha assigned to Moggallāna, is recognized as one of the most difficult practices in the Buddhist tradition. However, no practice cannot be undertaken without the Buddha's guidance.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Mieko Majima

In Case You Didn't Know . . .

- Keep up to date on what's happening at the Buddhist Church of Fowler by looking at The White Path (Monthly newsletter) online. Visit: fowlerbc.org

Buddhist Church of Fowler Board of Directors Meeting

There will be a Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting room. The main topic of discussion will be Obon.

Board of Governors – June

District 3

Rijis

Hitomi Sera
Craig Sakaguchi

Toban

Aiko Kamine
Irene Hara

The Shotsuki names for the month of June are:

Kenso Okamura
Kakuichi Kawano
Otoichi Oba
Randy Iwamoto
Yutaka Nakamura
Tomoichi Yamamoto
Natsuyo Otani

Shime Nakayama
Asano Teraoka
Yasu Kawano
Masaichi Fujimoto
Mikayo Nakamura
Tsuneyo Fujimoto
Ushi Toyama
Akira Yokomi
James Masaru Otani
Tom Teramoto
Tsukiye Teramoto
Ted Tomohiko Kondo
Jean Sakaye Ideta
Laraine Miyake-Combs
Amy Emiko Taniguchi
Roy Takeshi Nakamura
Atsushi Roy Kato
Tadao Uyemura
James Yamamoto
Hiroyuki Hiro Kamine

-Makurakyo – to request a Makura-kyo service, please contact Lee Osaki during business hours at (559)442-4054. Please do not contact the ministers.

- Funeral or Hoji – Please contact Barton Ashida, President, at (559)284-2955 for Fowler Buddhist Church availability and to schedule a meeting for assistance with funeral arrangement

Annual Dues

This is just a friendly reminder that your 2024 church dues are now delinquent. Dues have remained the same: \$225.00 – individuals and \$450.00 – couples/family.

Obon Practice

Once again, Lindsay & Lesley Guerra have graciously offered to lead our Obon Odori practices on the following evenings at the Fowler Church, in the Hondo.

6/18/2024 – 7pm

6/26/2024 – 7pm

6/28/2024 – 7pm

7/09/2024 – 7pm

May 2024 Donations

Gotan-E

\$ 30.00	Joe and Irene Hara
\$ 30.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 25.00	M/M Rick Miyasaki
\$ 10.00	Blake Honda

Shotsuki

\$ 150.00	Jean Ideta Family
\$ 50.00	M/M Gerald Nakayama
\$ 50.00	Bey & Susan Driss & Family
\$ 50.00	Linda Matsumoto Family
\$ 30.00	Mitsuye Shinkawa
\$ 30.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
\$ 30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 25.00	Gordon & Susan Hayashi
\$ 20.00	Sharon Asakawa

Special Donation

\$ 275.00	Donald & Irene Miyasaki
\$ 150.00	Janette Wong-Sing

In Memory of Tad Tadashi

Nakamura

\$2000.00	Gail Nakamura
\$ 500.00	Marlene & Barry Okada & Family
\$ 250.00	M Chappell/K McCullar
\$ 100.00	Janice & Ted Divina
\$ 100.00	Dale & Shizue Kaku
\$ 100.00	Kenny & Jane Bedrosian
\$ 100.00	Shigeru "Shig" Tokubo
\$ 50.00	Hideo & Linda Tsutsui
\$ 50.00	Sally Yemoto
\$ 50.00	Satoshi Okada

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\$ 50.00	Pete & Cathy Cholakian
\$ 50.00	Julie Nakagawa
\$ 50.00	Donald & Irene Miyasaki
\$ 25.00	James & Kanae Sakamoto
\$ 25.00	Linda & Kerry Matsunaga
\$ 20.00	Akiyo Ashida

In Memory of George Teraoka

\$ 100.00	Richard & Eileen Fujikawa
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2024 Obon/ Hatsubon

The Fowler Obon/Hatsubon is Saturday, 7/20 with food sales beginning at 4:30 pm and the coolest dancing at 7pm, inside!

The Obon/Hatsubon service will be Sunday, 7/21/2024, at 10 am. Rev. Blake Honda will be our guest speaker.

iPhone H.E.L.P. Classes

At The Nikkei Center

We Are Offering 2 Classes

Beginners : Calling, Texting, Facetime, Downloading Apps, Navigating The Internet, Social Media, Medical/Prescriptions, And More!

The Next Step: Messages (Stickers, Effects And Avatars), Utilizing Files, Creating Widgets, Modifying Photographs (Adjust, Filter, Crop), And More!

Please Contact Maura For More Information:

559-252-4036, Ext. 251 or

mauram@vintagegardens.org

Vintage Gardens Assisted Living Community
540 S. Peach Ave. Fresno, CA 93727



Welcome All 4-5 year olds!

A two week summer program introducing Japanese culture and way of life: group harmony, conservation of resources, respect for elders, and cooperative effort open to children of all ethnicities and religious denominations in a safe environment. This program will be led by Rev. Kaz Nakata, certified teachers, and volunteers.

July 8-19, 2024

Children will sing Japanese songs, play Japanese musical instruments, Obon dance, meditate, practice mindfulness, and show their gratitude and appreciation everyday.



The Fresno Kodomo Center

Fresno Children's Japanese Cultural Center

For more Information:

Rev Kaz Nakata:
rev.kaznakata@gmail.com

Alene Hayashi:
amhayashi@sbcglobal.net
Text: (559) 269-2402



July 8-19, 2024

8:30 - 11:30 am

Fresno Buddhist Temple
2690 E Alluvial Ave, Fresno

Tuition: \$300
CCDC Members: \$250
Fresno Buddhist Temple Members: \$150